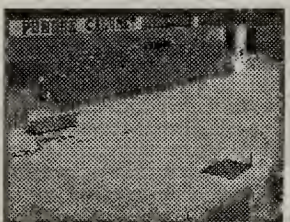




Vin Diesel's new movie "XXX" is a bust at the box office.

Find out why.  
**Entertainment, Page 6**

Students criticize new refund policy.  
**Opinion, Page 4**



The gymnasium gets revamped with a new floor and two new scoreboards.  
**Sports, Page 8**

### FYI...

Students can get their new student IDs on the first floor of the SFLC in the same area as the vending machines near the cafeteria. Students will need their new student IDs to access the Total Fitness Center and to sell their books back this fall in the Calumet Campus Shop. Students can also use their new student ID cards to receive discounts on movie tickets and other items. Students may use their student ID cards to receive free admission to all Purdue University Calumet home basketball games for both the men's and the women's games. The photo ID is free and only takes a few minutes. Stop by and get yours today. Call the information desk at (219) 989-2400 for more information on the ID cards.

## Refund policy upsets students

CHRISTOPHER JONES  
Assistant News Editor

A new refund policy has been set for students who want to withdraw from Purdue Calumet courses this fall semester.

Students who want to withdraw from a course this fall must do so prior to the first day of classes in order to receive a full refund. If a student drops a class during the first week of classes they will receive an 80 percent refund and the percentage decreases 20 percent with each proceeding week. After the fourth week of classes a student can no longer receive a refund if they withdraw from a class.

There are exceptions to the policy such as administrative errors that require a student to withdraw from a class and students who change sections of the same course will receive full refunds. Also students who want to withdraw from classes that meet once a week will not be penalized an extra week if the first session of their class is cancelled by the university due to a federal holiday.

In the past, students were given full refunds through the first week of classes.

University administration believes that the new policy will help alleviate the number of indecisive students who register early for classes that fill quickly and then withdraw from the class the first week. With the new refund policy, the administration believes that those students who know what classes they need to take and run less risk of dropping will occupy classes.

**"(The refund policy) is very stupid. It's idiotic that the administration want students to drop classes before they've taken them."**  
Eartha Montgomery,  
Junior, communication

teaching new students all over again," Sandra Singer, vice chancellor for academic affairs, said.

Singer advises students to talk with their advisors and look at university texts when considering courses to take. Also advisors can provide students with course syllabus' and course outlines to help students decide on which courses to register for.

See Refund, Page 5

## Technical problems affect PC Star

CHRISTOPHER JONES  
Assistant News Editor

Purdue Calumet STudent Access to Records (PC Star) will be back on-line before classes begin for the fall semester after having technical problems with the program recently.

PC Star is PUC's online database and allows students to view various school records. The program went off-line Aug. 7 and the Computing Technology and Information Services fixed the system Aug. 21.

PC Star went off-line due to a fault in the element of its software and the vendor ORACLE found a hole in the product. The fault required a series of fixes that forced an upgrade to the system, which was set to be upgraded in a few weeks. The Student Information System Banner 4.0, a database that stores admission data such as financial and Bursar information, is set to be upgraded in October. The system is used on thousands of campuses across the country.

"We've (CTIS) been working feverishly (to correct the problem) and the problem was identified last week," Douglas Sharp, head of CTIS, said.

CTIS had been working with its vendor ORACLE to patch the technical problem that they identified in the program.

PC Star is an on-line database that allows students to view university information such as the status of their financial aid, registration for classes and the courses offered, personal information, student records, account balances and payment options. To access PC Star a student must enter their pin number (student's six digit birthday) and user ID (student's social security number).

With PC Star down students were required to get their class schedule by telephone or by printing them out, which faculty members believed might have been a hindrance to students who live far from the campus.

"It wasn't disappointing for me, but I can see why it would bother others," Daniel Brugioni, a senior majoring in English education, said.

The faculty was also affected by the system being down. The system is controlled by the registration department, but other facilities were affected by the failure. The customer service department and the information center received numerous phone calls from students inquiring about the system being down.

"We received 20-25 calls per day," Dorothy Barrett, information clerk for the information center, said.

Students can access their PC Star account from the PUC homepage, and need to check with Enrollment Services Center, located in Lawshe 130, if their password or pin number do not work. PC Star service runs seven days a week 3 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

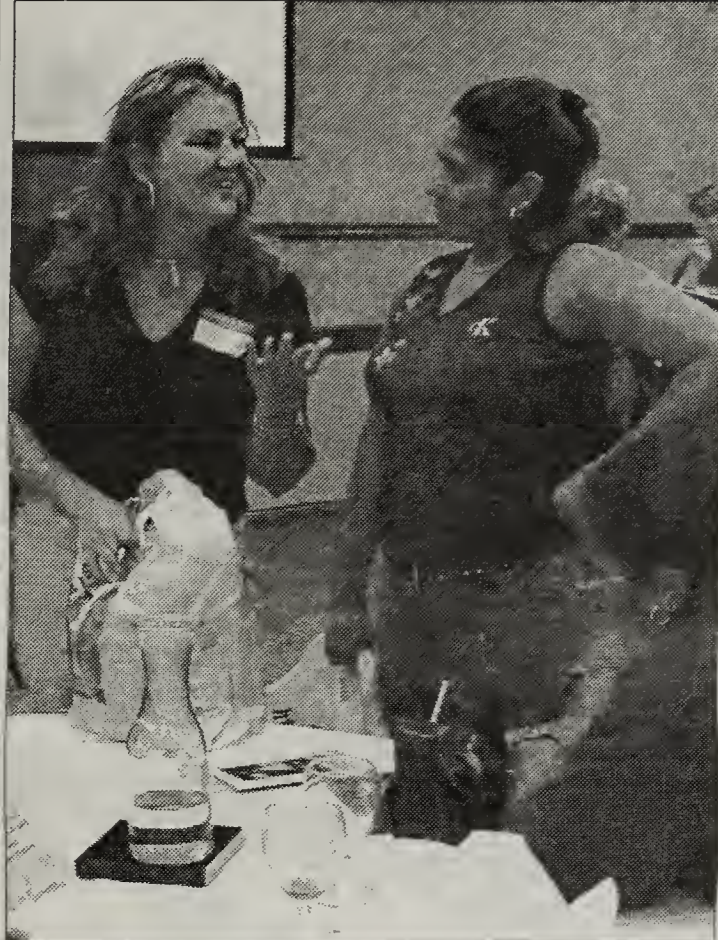


Photo by Kristin Harkin

Members of the Society of Women Engineers Nova Carden, (left) a junior majoring in Electrical Engineering, Salina Rivera, (middle) a junior majoring in Electrical Engineering, and Jocelyn Johnson, (right) a sophomore majoring in Computer Graphics, discuss SWE after the student organization meeting.

## CCLD holds first mandatory student organization meeting

JOCELYN GALLEGOS  
Editor in Chief

NOELLE BATES  
Staff Writer

The Center for Career and Leadership Development held an inaugural mandatory meeting for all student organizations Aug. 16.

Gloria Roldan-Schieb, associate director of Student Life and Activities, said CCLD held the meeting in an effort to resolve issues and concerns of student organizations.

"The main purpose was to get everybody on the same page," Roldan-Schieb said.

During the meeting, representatives from both the office of Business Administrator for Student Services and Conference Operations and Special Events reviewed policies and procedures such as how to hold events and complete paperwork. Roldan-Schieb hoped that by reviewing these methods and guidelines student organizations as well as senior leadership would be in sync.

At the meeting, CCLD representatives also addressed the new system that will enable student organizations to host their own websites using Front Page software. They will have access to unlimited space and this service is free of charge.

"Organizations get to use the

same website servers as Purdue Calumet departments do," said Christopher Kosovich, student worker for CCLD.

Any student organization interested should contact CCLD to acquire space. CCLD also will provide a workshop for organizations needing website development assistance.

Another topic addressed involved the catering cost of Chartwells services. Students inquired about the possibility of contracting outside catering. At this time, Chartwells catering services must be used for any official campus event requiring food. If not, student organizations that want to hold events on the PUC campus must pay guest rates.

Representatives from 25 campus organizations were in attendance. Some student organizations present included: Society of Human Resources Management, Black Student Union, Student Government Association, Test Pattern and The Chronicle.

Joshauna Walker, a junior majoring in communication commented on Test Pattern, a new broadcasting student organization.

"Being a new organization on campus, I thought this meeting was very informative. Hearing the great ideas, I look forward to networking with other student

See Meeting, Page 5



# The Chronicle

Join the  
largest  
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Meet new people and  
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The Chronicle is seeking to fill the position of sports editor, opinion page editor, chief copy editor and distribution manager. We also are in need of writers, photographers and copy editors.

For more information call us at 989-2547 or stop by our office in SFLC 344-H and fill out an application.

## What's goin' on?

A look around campus

### PUC offers new e-mail system

The AXP e-mail system is no longer available for registered PUC students. A new web-based e-mail system is in place (Netmail). New usernames have been assigned. The username is the same for PC Login in labs, BlackBoard Login and the stem of the e-mail address (username@calumet.purdue.edu). This service will be available Aug 26. Students can find out their username by accessing PC Star. Contact the main computer lab or the customer service center for questions.

### CCLD seeks campus musical talent

The Center for Career and Leadership Development is seeking bands that play R&B/ Hip Hop or Latin Music. Bands who are interested in submitting demo tapes should drop them off at or send them to The Center for Career and Leadership Development, Purdue University Calumet, 2200 169th St., Hammond, Ind., 46323. Bands who are interested in playing at "Music for the Masses 2002," Purdue Calumet's annual charity concert, on the evening of Oct. 4 should include a note with their demo indicating their interest. All submissions for the charity concert must be received by CCLD no later than Thursday, Sept. 5 at 4:30 p.m.

Bands may call Gloria at CCLD at (219) 989-2369 or e-mail Jade Lee at JadeLeeCulberson4SGA@hotmail.com for more information about the charity concert.

### Hoosier A.D.P.T. seeks members

The Hoosier A.D.P.T. seeks members and is open to anyone, but is specifically for students with disabilities. There is no formal membership and meets in the PUC cafeteria at noon every weekday. The club was started in 1999 at PUC and was originated by Vietnam Veterans after the Vietnam War. The club wants disabled and non-disabled students to work together for the enhancement of the work place. Anyone interested should contact Andrea Murray at (219) 932-4614.

### The Gay/ Straight Alliance welcomes membership

Do you want to help eliminate oppression, fear, and homophobia on campus and in the community? Are you open to the questions and opinions of others? It doesn't matter if you are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, straight or questioning.

Everyone has questions, comments and concerns they'd like to share. Everyone needs information about issues now and then. We have a safe atmosphere where asking questions, expressing concerns and making comments is encouraged. We exist to provide a non-judgmental, confidential and supportive environment. E-mail pucgsa@hotmail.com for more information.

### Chronicle seeks web designers

The Chronicle seeks designers for the on-line edition. For more information contact Janki (219) 989-2547.

### Gamer's Guild needs players

The Role Players' Guild is PUC's newest gaming organization. It is an organization for students interested in tabletop role-playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons, Shadowrun and Vampire: The Masquerade. Games will be held most Mondays and Wednesdays from approximately 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Interested students should e-mail pucRPG@yahoo.com for more information.

### PUC photo club seeks new members

Do you like taking photos? The photo club is looking for shutter bugs, beginners and advanced. Please contact Kristin at PUCPhotoClub@hotmail.com for more information.

### Chronicle seeks photographers

The Chronicle seeks designers for the on-line edition. For more information contact Janki (219) 989-2547.

## Say what?

*'I have never let my schooling interfere with my education'*

-Mark Twain  
1835-1910

## The Chronicle

Purdue University Calumet  
2200 169th St. SFLC 344-H,  
Hammond, Indiana 46323-2094  
Phone: (219) 989-2547

Fax: (219) 989-2770  
E-mail: chronicle@calumet.purdue.edu  
or campus cc:mail - chronicle

http://Chronicle.calumet.purdue.edu

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Joeelyn Gallegos  
**Managing Editor**  
Frank Sprankie  
**Production Manager**  
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# School of Education receives continuing accreditation

**ESTEBAN GARCIA**  
News Writer

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) has bestowed continuing accreditation to the School of Education. The School is accredited for the five-year maximum period, and is a mark of distinction.

"The accreditation is 'continuing' because we've always been accredited," Robert Rivers, professor and head of the School of Education, said. "While [the School of Education] was on probation from 1999 to this past fall, we were still accredited, just with stipulations."

The current accreditation holds no stipulations.

For a school to be accredited, they must meet arduous stan-

dards set not only by the profession but also the public. PUC met every standard set by the NCATE and the Indiana Professional Standards Board, according to a university relations press release.

"PUC is one of the first institutions in Indiana to be reviewed according to NCATE 2000 standards, which are significantly more demanding than previous standards," Rivers said.

The accreditation applies to the undergraduate program only; the graduate education is accredited with the program in Purdue West Lafayette.

"We are very pleased with the hard work demonstrated by our faculty, staff and administration within the school of education, as well as those departments with teacher education

programs that provided support in this...process," Rivers said.

Colin Fewer, assistant professor of English, is also pleased.

"It's a good thing for them

and the school of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences since so many majors in L A S S departments are on the secondary education track. I'm sure that we'll be able to collaborate productively with them in the future to produce first-rate teachers."

**"While [the School of Education] was on probation from 1999 to this past fall, we were still accredited, just with stipulations."**

**Robert Rivers,**  
Head of the School  
of Education

Indeed, for a school to be NCATE accredited, the teacher candidates must have in-depth knowledge of their subject matter, as well as the skills necessary to

convey it so that students learn. Additionally, university staff must model effective teaching practices and the school must have the resources—information technology included—necessary to prepare the candidates to

meet the new standards.

"The School of Education has done an amazing amount of work in addressing its weak-

nesses," Judith Burdan, assistant professor of English, said. "One of the problems addressed and rectified was the communication between students and faculty. Their resolution of that concern is definitely deserving on the national recognition that accreditation brings."

"The [accreditation] review team looked at every document in our document center, visited K-12 school classrooms where our students were engaged in field experiments, visited university classes and interviewed more than 100 people—students, alumni, and educators—and came away very impressed," Rivers said. "[Accreditation] substantiates that we are one of the high-quality programs preparing teachers in Indiana."

## PUC offers club for 'Hams'

**CHRISTOPHER JONES**  
News Writer

The Purdue Amateur Radio Society is seeking members, after four years of inactivity, as it joins the American Radio Relay League.

PARS began in the 1960s as an organization for Ham—amateur—radio operators, who were interested in the field as a hobby. The club had been inactive since 1998, but started up again last spring semester. Since that time the club has had radio communications with other universities such as Stanford, Arizona, Purdue and with several area high schools. The group has also talked around the world, communicating with radio operators in England, Jordan, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

As part of the club, Ham operators have the opportunity to get their radio license from the Federal Communications Commission. PUC offers the testing amateur operators need to receive their license and is the only campus in Lake County that offers the FCC test. A goal of club trustee Edward Perosky is to use PUC facilities to train students in amateur radio, but his primary concern is to have students interested in joining the PARS.

"(I hope) to have 20-25 people interested in amateur radio," Perosky said.

Mike Wilder, vice president of the club, said he hopes that the club doubles or triples in membership. Currently the club has about five active members.

The club meets every Wednesday and gets its funding by repairing items, such as a Fender amplifier and the panel of a 1958 Chevrolet. The club



Photo provided

**Members of the Hams Radio Club, (from l to r) Jim Sellers, Jack Woods and Mike Wilder, meet weekly. Currently, there are five members in the club.**

charges only for the parts required to fix an item and accept whatever donation a client offers.

As part of the ARRL, the club will be involved in weather spotting and will work with the National Weather Service by calling in weather on their radio. Members of the ARRL attend seminars in weather spotting and are supported by the NWS.

"(The NWS) think highly of Hams (amateur operators)," Jim Sellers, section manager of the ARRL, said.

The members of the club became interested with amateur radio in their youths. Sellers began his interest in radios as a boy scout, building a crystal radio with his father and received his first amateur license when he was 16.

Perosky built a Knight wireless broadcaster that he saw on the television program Hobby Time and later joined his high school radio club.

"(The high school's) radio beat the Knight wireless I built," Perosky said.

Wilder also has been interested in radios since he was in high school and in later years used his interest in radio to pursue astronomy and listened to radio waves from Jupiter.

In the future, the club wants to use their radio to communicate with the International Space Station and have local grade school children ask questions to those they contact.

Anyone interested in joining the PARS or have items that the club can repair contact Ed Perosky at (219) 989-2484.



**PURDUE  
CALUMET  
Police BEAT  
8/01-16/02**

Thursday, August 8,  
2:20 a.m.  
An Employee states they were walking down the hallway and slipped on a puddle of floor stripper, resulting in a minor back injury.

Tuesday, August 13, 2:35 a.m.  
A person was wringing out a mop when their hand slipped off the lever and the handle swung back and hit their wrist. No medical treatment requested.

Tuesday, August 13, 4:00 p.m.  
A person states that sometime between 12/01 and today's date that some unknown subject took their laptop computer from their office. No listed suspects at this time.

Wednesday, August 14, 2:30 a.m.  
A person was stripping the floor and slipped on the floor, resulting in minor injury to back.

### Classified

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## The Chronicle

Editorial Board  
Fall 2002

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Sarah Lison, news editor  
Christopher Jones, assistant news editor  
Skye Holman, chief photographer

## Refund policy forces students to be psychic

With the start of a new school year students are likely to encounter many changes that accompany any new semester. Some of the changes that are inevitable include new instructors and the way they run their classrooms. During this period of adjusting, students may find it hard to become accustomed to the instructor for several different reasons. One particular class may be overwhelming in conjunction with the other nine or twelve credit hours students may be taking. In this instance, students may opt to postpone taking this course until they feel able to handle all that the course entails.

In the diverse atmosphere of our campus there are many instructors who have accents and they may be hard to understand. Sometimes it is easier to take a class in another section than to struggle trying to decipher lesson plans. In the world of different personalities, it is highly likely that students may experience an instructor that they bump heads with on some topics. Realizing that it may not be wise to quarrel with the person deciding grades, it may be an advantage to drop the course.

There are endless possibilities to why one may choose to drop a course. Purdue University Calumet has decided to change the tuition refund policy schedule. This is yet another concern students may add to their list of worries. To drop or not to drop a class is the question.

According to the administrative update we ran April 1, this change was made in an effort to deter students from dropping classes and making it more convenient for those students who want to take a course that may be full at the time they register. Also it will save the university between \$200,000 and \$300,000. This amount of money is substantial, but how was this amount calculated? Keep in mind that if an Indiana resident versus an Illinois resident drops classes the cost to the university will be different. Students should be able to access the exact number of students accounted for dropping classes and also their reasons for doing so. There is a difference between students who drop a class because they find it difficult and students who hold the space, just to do so, preventing other students from taking the course.

Keeping in mind the new university policy, other policies should be addressed. Under the circumstances in which students find that a class is full, they have the option to go to the department head and receive an extension for the class. Also, if classes have already begun, students have two weeks into the semester to have the instructor of a class sign an add/drop card to give them permission to join the class. Both of these options are solely up to the department and the instructor, but are actions that may be taken. I would think these options are already set to benefit the students. The \$200,000 to \$300,000 the university will be saving a year is stated as ultimately benefiting the students. If so much money is saved, why is it that new students are charged an additional \$16 per credit hour.

At any rate, by the time this is read, the deadline will have been past, yet the issues are still present. A pending question is how are students supposed to know how they are going to function in a class if they have not attended it. As a friendly FYI note, IUN starts classes on the same day and their 100 percent tuition refund deadline is Aug. 30.

### The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

*The Chronicle* welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. All material must be saved on a 3.5" DOS format disk. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is noon the Monday before publication.



## Make fall semester one to remember

NICK ORANGE  
Commentary Writer

Do you feel that buzz? You know that intoxicating, intense energy that seems to permeate from everywhere this time of the year. At some point, it hits you reinvigorating your mind and hopefully even your soul. Yes, it is the exciting energy that only the beginning of a new semester can bring to our campus home.

For some, the energy will be sensed in midst of the long lines of registration and the complaints of book prices. Others, however, will embrace the opportunities that only the prospect of a new year can bring. With new dynamic leadership and a rededication to student success, this year has the potential to be one of the finest Purdue University Calumet has ever enjoyed.

I challenge all of you to embrace your own passions and interests so that you don't become one of those that are left behind wondering what happened to four years of your life.

For those looking for a more traditional method of involvement, I highly recommend any of our many active student groups and organizations.

PUC offers everything from social sororities/fraternities and student governmental groups to special interest groups dedicated to a single ideology or message.

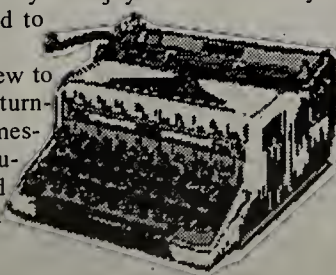
If you're not currently involved, or even if you are, I strongly suggest that you take a few minutes to visit the many call out events that will be taking place the first week of classes in the Student Faculty Library Center. Student organizations and clubs offer a great place to meet new people and make new friends.

In the classroom, channel this energy toward engaging your education. At the end of the day what you learn or don't learn is ultimately up to you.

Learn to speak your mind and defend your position, but at the same time learn to really listen and understand the diversity that makes PUC so fascinating. If you simply make it a point to speak to one new person in your class every other day imagine how many people you'll experience during your stay here.

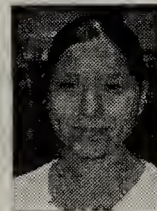
Finally, I challenge all of you to come to a better appreciation of the small things that really define the collegiate life at PUC. Take a moment to read a magazine in the library. Sit and have a conversation with a perfect stranger in a lounge. Just make a point to take a moment out of each day to enjoy the world that you have worked so hard to arrive.

Whether you're new to campus or you're returning for your last semester, this is an opportunity to reevaluate and improve the way you experience PUC.



## The People Speak

Question of the Week: How do you feel about the new refund policy?



**Liliana Lopez**  
freshman, nursing

"How are we going to drop a class you haven't attended and you don't know how it will be?"



**Dinah Martin**  
Sophomore, Elementary Education  
"I don't plan on dropping any classes and I never have."



**Victor Davila**  
Sophomore, CIS  
"It is another way for the school to get money. It's set up for the school to benefit. What about the students that get loans and then have to pay that money back."



**Lorenzo English**  
Sophomore, Engineering  
"How will you know if the class is what you want? When you haven't been there you can't make that decision. It is like saying pay for this whether you like it or not and if you don't you don't get your money back either way."



**Asim Hasan**  
Senior, CIS  
"I like it the old way because you got to find out how the class was."



**Thy Huynh**  
Senior, Bio Tech  
"I was unhappy when I heard about it. Usually you don't know what to expect at least until they go over the syllabus."



# New message board provides The Center, PUC with information

**FRANK SPRANKLE**  
Managing Editor

Anyone who has driven down 173rd Street lately, toward the PUC campus might notice an addition, in the form of a new sign. Across the street from the main campus, on the south end, the new electronic message board informs people from all parts, as it stands right in the area of the parking lot for The Center and PER Building.

The operation for the message board runs from a computer system in The Center and is controlled by fiber optic cables. Any student organization around campus can take advantage by advertising on the sign free of charge, by filling out a request form.

"I think the sign is a nice addition to the university," Peggy Kienzle director of The Center said.

Kienzle has overseen The

Center since it opened two years ago. Since then, its commitment has expanded beyond PUC by serving the greater Calumet Area. And unlike student fees, which pay for the renovation of buildings around campus, The Center received its money through donations.

The new message board, which began operating last May, became an idea between the senior leadership board, a group that includes the chancellor and vice chancellors. The funding was received through special project funds or year-end savings.

"The idea (for the sign) has been in the making for a year and we felt it would be a better communicator towards the university," Mike Kull said, who serves as PUC's director of Emergencies and Service Requests.

"The sign helps us by broadcasting events from its location,

it also provides opportunities for the center and better marketing for the campus," Kull said.

Everyday, the sign runs from 6:00 and shuts down at 10:00. The message board features the time and temperature on a constant basis.

Lately, the board has been displaying information for hall rental in The Center, which can accommodate numerous events from business meetings to banquets. However come November when basketball season begins, the sign will make mention of all Laker and Lady Laker games at the PER Building.

"I think the message board is a great marketing tool. It helps make mention to the community the events that we have going on at The Center and around PUC," Patrick Ard said, who serves as assistant director of conference operations to The Center.

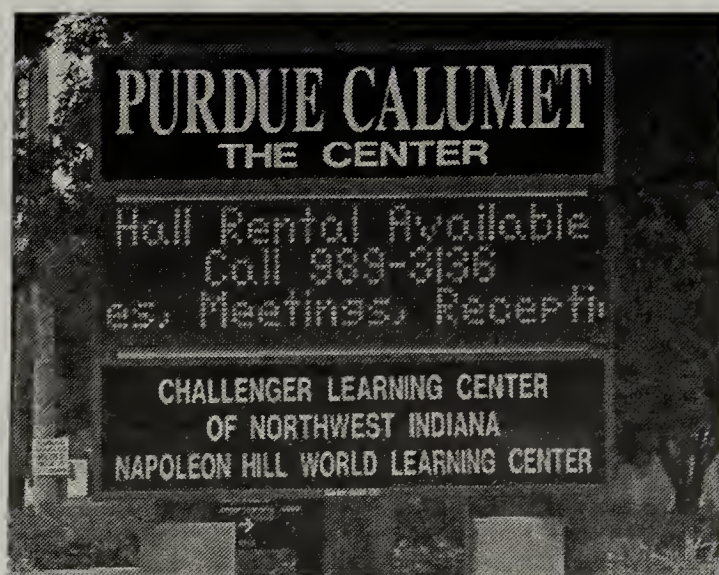


Photo by Dave Thompson

The new electronic message board located on 173rd Street near the PER building and The Center. It runs 15 hours a day, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., making mention of events on campus and at The Center.

## Meeting

Continued from page 1

organizations during this school year," Walker said.

Fernando Andrade, a senior majoring in electrical engineering and member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers added, "This was a positive event for student organizations to get to know other organizations and find out what you can do together."

The meeting challenged student organizations to build strong relationship with each other along with senior leadership. Bonds formed as lunch was served and

students were given gifts such as T-shirts and totes courtesy of United Parcel Service.

Rick Riddering, director of CCLD said, "Our plans are to have annual meetings like this. This is the first time we've even done anything like this. I'm thrilled because we had such a great turn out."

At a later date, Roldan-Schieb hopes to meet with each student organization individually.

"All organizations may not have the same issues and concerns, so that gives me an opportunity to meet with them one-on-one," Roldan-Schieb said.

## Refund

Continued from page 1

The new refund policy has not been received well by PUC students.

"It's not fair—what if you don't make it to class the first day? You can't drop a class unless you know what it is—the (refund policy) condemns the students," Mario Salinas, a junior majoring in psychology, said.

Eartha Montgomery, a junior majoring in communication

shared similar feelings on the subject, "(The refund policy) is very stupid. It's idiotic that (the administration) want students to drop classes before they've taken them."

An assistant in the office of the vice chancellor believes that students who are planning to drop classes based on the instructor have to get past differences and take the courses that are required for a given major.

Administration believes that

there needs to be communication between PUC faculty and the student body. New students are especially encouraged to discuss their plans with PUC advisors and the university has orientations for incoming students.

After enrolling in a course Leo Bryant, vice chancellor of student services, believes that a student is obligated to take that class, but after they have communicated well with an advisor.

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# 'XXX' triple disappointment in theaters

ESTEBAN GARCIA  
Staff Writer

"XXX" should have been a porno. That way, at least, two things could happen:

1. The bad dialogue would be excusable, if not expected, and

2. The action would be a bit more believable.

The plot: Xander Cage (Vin Diesel, "Fast & the Furious") does extreme sports and gets caught by the government (personified by Samuel L. Jackson). Samuel L. enlists Vin for help in bringing down Anarchy 99, a

bunch of would-be terrorists led by Yorgi (Marton Csokas, "Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring"). The token main-character-love-interest-that-is-the-squeeze-of-the-bad-guy is 'Yelina,' played by Asia Argento ("B. Monkey").

All the typical spy movie bases are covered. One thing that bothered me is that "XXX" is being hailed as "A James Bond franchise for a new generation." Therein lies one of the problems; that is: this has been done before. In fact, the movie's website () states:

"...He (Cage) must combat a

clever, organized, and ruthless enemy...The fate of the world lies in the hands of a new breed of secret agent."

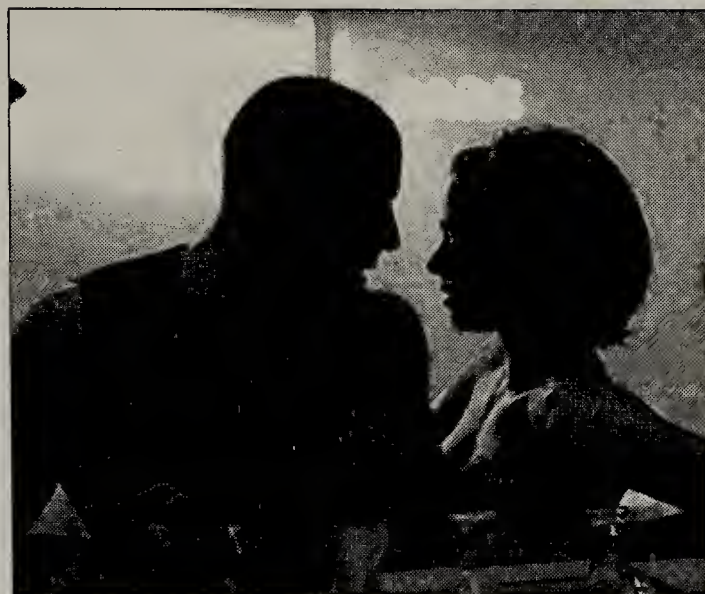
Funny, isn't that what the Bond movies did too, and with better actors than Vin (George Lazenby excluded)?

The Bond/"XXX" parallel includes Cage's weapons maker, who is portrayed in a way more annoying than amusing, whereas Q was the perfect comic relief.

A highlight of "XXX" is its halfway decent soundtrack. Note that I said "halfway" decent, not excellent. Rammstein's appearance in the movie was nice, but their appearance made the movie feel more like a music video than anything. Indeed, the closing credits themselves may as well be a music video for Gavin Rossdale's contribution to the soundtrack, 'Adrenaline.' I guess it makes sense, in a way. Those who enjoy MTV more than is healthy would get a kick out of "XXX", for its music video-type style and at times the music.

That's it. I think if I look at "XXX" as a music video as opposed to a movie, I'll be okay. I mean, it's got dancing girls, music that 'bumps,' and 'rocks,' explosions (that are larger and more unrealistic than should be allowed in this type of flick), guns, violence, and other good stuff that the filmmakers are hoping will appeal to the "new generation." I suppose that in the fact that "XXX" was the #1 movie its opening weekend means they did something right, but personally I am insulted to be lumped in the target demographic of this movie.

Going into this movie I knew I needed to shut off my mind and go with the flow. Which I was able to do, up until the opening sequence. Add the quick acquiescence of other government agents in hiring Cage,



Vin Diesel and Asia Argento star in the Bond-like action/adventure "XXX".

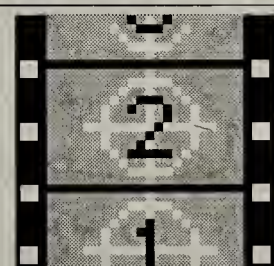
more explosions, girls, and it hit me:

"You know, for a movie starring Vin Diesel, we sure don't see much of him." But whom do we see? His stunt double.

And then there was the avalanche scene. The scene that set off the voice in my head saying, "You cannot recommend this to people. They will hate you and you will hate yourself." You've seen a bit of it in the previews (which, yes, were better than the movie as a whole), the part where Cage is going down a mountain and is being chased by an avalanche. Pay attention. The little dot that is supposed to be Cage? Watch it be overcome more than once by the avalanche and show up again a few feet away—safe and unscratched. Yep, that's supposed to be him. And how exactly can he outrun snowmobiles on a snowboard? I can't outrun a car going downhill on my bike, but somehow he does this with style and aplomb.

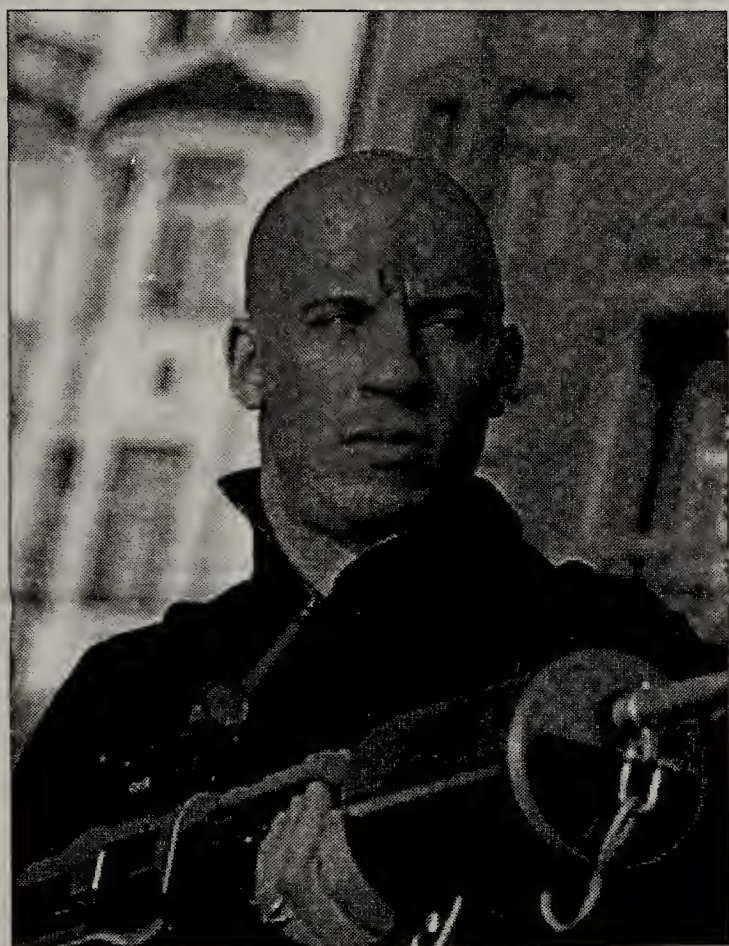
Look, just do yourselves a

favor and just rent it. I don't want to think about this anymore. Let's just say this: the movie gets one star for having Asia Argento in it, and half a star for having Rammstein in it. If that doesn't say it all for you...well, you've been warned.



## MOVIE REVIEW

"XXX"  
1.5 ★



Vin Diesel makes the transition from the extreme to bring down terrorists in "XXX".

# The power of love and heartache prevails in 'Sunset'

NICOLE ELISCHER  
Staff Writer

If I throw out the word "romance novel," the first things that will probably come to your mind are a cover with a topless male model, plots that only improve when the characters undress, or a female author like Danielle Steele or Nora Roberts. Then again, authors like Nicholas Sparks and Robert James Walker have also charmed female audiences in writing tales of moving romances.

New to this genre is Daniel Jay Paul. An author and songwriter from Michigan, Paul is described on Xlibris.com (a website that helps new writers publish and retain the rights to their work) as a man who prefers to keep to himself and lets his songs and stories of love be his voice. He had originally planned to be a journalist, but discovered in college that fiction had a better power of telling the truth than the newspaper. He wrote and produced an album for a group called the Flame along with his

own album of music in 2000. Paul will also be the first to admit that he is a perfectionist that can "turn a blank piece of paper into a virtual wall of terror."

Being a fan of everything romantic and Hallmark card sappiness, I'm not sure I called every page of Paul's debut novel, "The Last Sunset," a virtual wall of terror. Except for a few grim scenes, it is a heartwarming tale of one man's flashbacks shaping another man's future. When a college prank involving alcohol, spray paint

and a sculpture donated by the town's judge goes wrong, young Steve Hadley is sentenced to community service at Pioneer Manor Nursing Home. Once there, his first assignment of mopping the flooring is a disaster of serendipitous proportions for two people who eventually become Steve's friends.

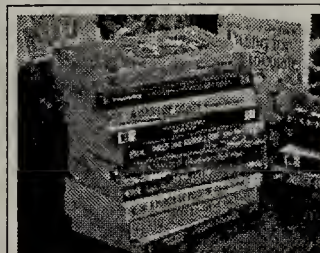
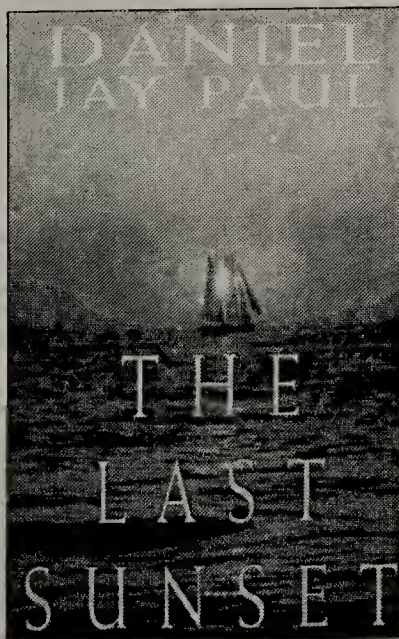
One is Dawn McNally, a student nurse with a deformed hip from a troubled childhood, she thinks Steve is a spoiled rich kid who has no respect for women.

However, when he finds something she thought she lost when her apartment was destroyed, she soon grows to love him and feels she can tell him anything. The other friend, Moses Bailey, is a former artist who wants to see one last sunset on Lake Michigan. When he first saw Steve pull up into the nursing home, Moses is reminded of his youthful days of sailing, hockey, and a summer that changed his life. In the summer of 1939, Moses fell in love with Sarah Conner, a beautiful but unhappily married wife of the richest art dealer in Chicago. As the Connors help Moses prepare for his art exhibit, Sarah begins to fall in love with the man she wishes she could love but can't.

The idea of bouncing back and forth between the two couples is frustrating at first, but works because it gives the reader a reason why these couples are meant to be. The reader does miss a minute of what is happening because of vivid detail. With this deep detail, we feel that we are actually witnessing their joys

and heartache.

In the end, "Sunset" is more than just a novel where love has a happy ending. It is a novel that shows what the power of love can do in making a person become something better than what they once were.



## Book REVIEW

Daniel Jay Paul  
"The Last Sunset"  
3.5 ★



# Eminem, P.O.D., Missy Elliot score 6 nominations for MTV's VMA awards

JOE JUAREZ

Entertainment Editor

Three days, three artists, six nominations apiece, what does that lead you to ask. Well, in a few simple words, one interesting night as the 2002 MTV Video Music Awards will be handed out August 29 at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

This year, Eminem, P.O.D. and Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliot lead the pack with six nominations. Eminem's "Without Me" and P.O.D.'s "Alive" will vie for Best Video Of The Year and the Viewer's Choice Award, while Missy's "One Minute Man" will vie for Best Direction along with Eminem and P.O.D.

Other multiple nominations include Shakira who's up for four nominations for "Whenever, Wherever" and The White Stripes will be up for four for their two minute epic "Fell In Love With A Girl." In addition, Pink, Britney and Usher have each garnered three nominations to their credit.

The 2002 MTV Video Music Awards will air live from Radio City Music Hall in with performances by Pink, Shakira, Bruce Springsteen and The E-Street Band, "P-Diddy" and many others. SNL's Jimmy Fallon host the show as the whole world will find out who will win a moon man.

\*\* Indicates Joe's Prediction

**Best Video of the Year**

- ~ Eminem - "Without Me" \*\*
- ~ N'SYNC - "Gone"
- ~ Linkin Park - "In the End"
- ~ White Stripes - "Fell in Love with a Girl"
- ~ NAS - "One Mic"

**Viewer's Choice**

- ~ Brandy - "What about Us"
- ~ Enrique Iglesias - "Hero"
- ~ Michelle Branch - "Everywhere"
- ~ B2K - "Uh Huh"
- ~ Eminem - "Without Me" \*\*
- ~ P.O.D. - "Alive"

**Best Male Video**

- ~ Eminem - "Without Me" \*\*
- ~ Enrique Iglesias - "Hero"
- ~ Craig David - "Walking Away"
- ~ Usher - "U Got it Bad"
- ~ Elton John - "This Train Don't Stop

**Here Anymore"**

- ~ Nelly - "#1"

**Best Female Video**

- ~ Britney Spears - "I'm a Slave 4 U"
- ~ Pink - "Get the Party Started" \*\*
- ~ Shakira - "Whenever, Wherever"
- ~ Ashanti - "Foolish"
- ~ Michelle Branch - "All You Wanted"

**Best New Artist in a Video**

- ~ Ashanti - "Foolish"
- ~ John Mayer - "No Such Thing"
- ~ Avril Lavigne - "Complicated"
- ~ B2K - "Uh Huh"
- ~ Puddle of Mud - "Blurry"

**Best Group Video**

- ~ N'SYNC F/ Nelly - "Girlfriend"

**Remix**

- ~ No Doubt F/ Bounty Killer - "Hey Baby"
- ~ Blink 182 - "First Date"
- ~ Lincoln Park - "In the End" \*\*

- ~ Dave Matthews Band - "Everyday"
- ~ P.O.D. - "Alive"

**Breakthrough Video**

- ~ DMX - "Who We Be"
- ~ The Crystal Method - "Name of the Game"
- ~ Coldplay - "Trouble"

- ~ The White Stripes - "Fell in Love With a Girl" \*\*

- ~ Maxwell - "This Woman's Work"

- ~ Cake - "Short Skirt/ Long Jacket"

**Best Dance Video**

- ~ Kylie Minogue - "Can't Get You Out of My Head"
- ~ Britney Spears - "I'm a Slave 4 U"
- ~ Dirty Vegas - "Days Go By" \*\*
- ~ Pink - "Get The Party Started"
- ~ Shakira - "Whenever, Wherever"

**Best Direction in a Video**

- ~ Elton John - "This Train Don't Stop Anymore" (Director David LaChapelle) \*\*
- ~ P.O.D. - "Alive" (Director Francis Lawrence)
- ~ Eminem - "Without Me" (Director Joseph Kahn)
- ~ Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliot F/ Ludacris & Trina - "One Minute Man" (Director Dave Meyers)
- ~ Red Hot ChiliPeppers - "By the Way" (Directors Jonathon Dayton & Valarie Faris)



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## THE SPRANKLE CONFINES

### Baseball comes down to key issues



FRANK SPRANKLE  
Managing Editor

Hopefully, as one is reading this, there has been some major progress between the players and owners of Major League Baseball. But if not, a strike is set for this coming Friday.

The issue of luxury tax and revenue sharing have become the main points. Clearly in terms of revenue sharing, MLB wants to even out the competition. As any baseball fan realizes over the last few years from the mid-'90s to today, the Yankees have been the team to beat, but they have had the money to do it.

Revenue sharing would force George Steinbrenner to split some of the Yankees' dollars and force it into lower market teams such as Tampa Bay and Kansas City.

Right now, it seems that luxury tax is the deciding issue in getting a deal done. The owners want to implement a tax on payrolls at \$102 million, but the players want it to be at \$130 million.

So that is what it comes down to, revenue sharing, and the all important luxury tax. If those issues cannot be worked out, the fans will suffer by not experiencing the post season again. When MLB went on strike in '94, the date was set on Aug. 12. As everyone knows that day ended the season, for the World Series was not to be. An Aug. 30 strike date would be just as the pennant races are heading-up and walking out could possibly destroy the season.

If a strike does occur, the team that will suffer the most is the Minnesota Twins. Throughout the year, this ball club has coasted through the American League Central Division, led by mostly young talent with the likes of center-fielder Torii Hunter and 1st baseman Doug Mientkiewicz. As of Aug. 21, the Twins had a record of 75-52, 16.5 games in front of the White Sox. It was just before the season, that the Twins were the talk of contraction, along with the Montreal Expos.

In 1994, the Expos had a commanding lead in the National League East, until that strike hit. Since then, baseball has not been the same in Montreal.

But Major League Baseball won't be the same if there is another work stoppage, for the league will enter a Dark Age.

## Gymnasium under renovation to receive new floor, scoreboard

FRANK SPRANKLE  
Managing Editor

When the Lakers and Lady Lakers open-up the basketball season in the fall, they will do so with a true hard wood floor. Currently, the PER Building fieldhouse is going under a major renovation, with the installation of a new floor as well as two new scoreboards on the north and south end, that will begin operating this fall.

The new surface will feature two types of maple, and will be built over the original rubber floor that PUC has watched its basketball teams for years, as was the case with volleyball before that sport discontinued competing three years ago.

The company in charged of placing the new hardwood floor, Kiefer Specialty Flooring, has had experience in placing gym floors, both wooden and rubber, as well as

installing running tracks and artificial surfaces.

In looking to replace the PER Building's current gym floor, a few factors came into place. One of which was that over the last five years, the floor started to come apart. The issue of getting a new surface began about ten years ago, when John Friend, former Director of Fitness, Wellness, and Sports looked into it. But it wasn't until last spring that the current director, Rob Jensen got involved. From there, he traveled to a number of show rooms once receiving 100 percent approval from the chancellor.

Construction began at the end of July and continued into early August, but in starting the renovation came with a big break. Originally, John Stockton was slated to come to PUC. For the second straight year, the 18-year veteran of the Utah Jazz and the NBA's all-

time assist leader had plans on holding a basketball camp for kids that would have taken place from July 27-30. But unlike last year, participation became little.

"They (The John Stockton camp) did not have a big sign-up, it was just one of those types of things, it became a big break for us," Jensen said, as he has overseen this project

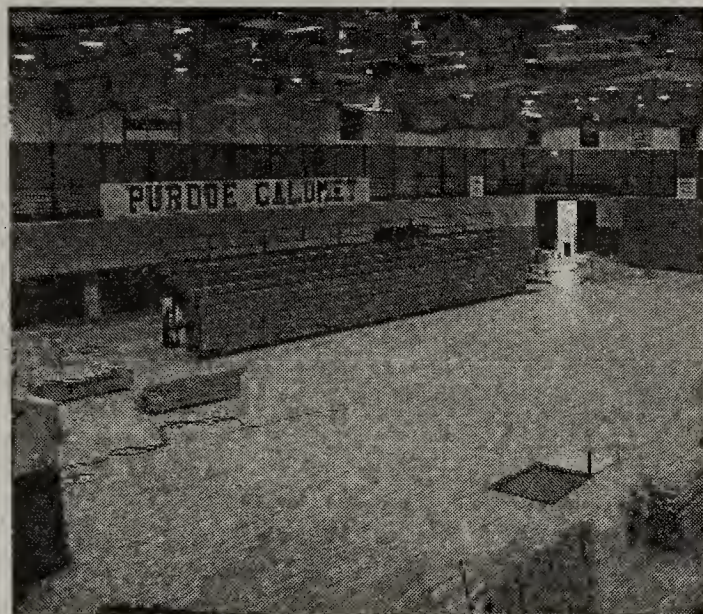


Photo by Dave Thompson

**An overhead view of the new gym floor under construction in the PER building. Completion is slated for the end of September.**

from receiving the chancellor's approval to the beginning of the construction.

Since the new floor is being installed, it has forced the closer of the fieldhouse, including the running track on the upper level, in which many take advantage of in getting exercise.

At this time of year, both PUC basketball teams use the PER Building for open gym sessions and preseason conditioning. Still the training goes on.

"We have worked out arrangements with some local high schools and the 'Y' to get some gym time and get their conditioning going," Jensen said.

"The basketball players are

going to get a great benefit from the new floor as well as students and faculty that are involved in intramural sports."

As for Kiefer Flooring, they have put quality work into getting the job done, an average of 10 hours a day. The new floor that's being installed in the PER Building is the same as the one in the Macky Arena in West Lafayette.

"The floor will look nice," Ed LeMere said, who is an installer for Kiefer Flooring.

"This new wood floor will last anywhere between 40 to 50 years, but the moisture in the air could be a factor."

Completion date for the floor is scheduled for Sept. 30.

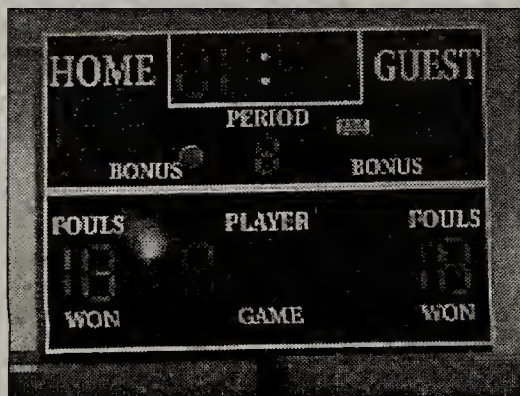


Photo by Dave Thompson

**A shot of the scoreboard at the north end of the gym. There will be two new scoreboards when construction is finished.**



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